

# DEQ Inspector and Field Staff Guidance

The Utah DEQ must continue to fulfill its mission to protect human health and the environment during times of crisis. During this time, DEQ must balance this obligation with the safety of our employees and the community which may require DEQ to be flexible in exercising its authority.

At this time, all applicable regulations and requirements remain in effect. Due to the evolving nature of actions required to slow the spread of COVID-19, this information may be updated in the coming days/weeks.

The following directive provides information on how to prioritize and conduct inspections and field work during this time for all programs under DEQ's purview.

1. Employees should work with their managers to prioritize inspections and other field work and complete only those that are essential. Essential is defined by programmatic need and takes into consideration protection of human health and the environment. Non-essential inspections and field work should be delayed until further notice.
2. As of today, essential work related in-state travel is approved by the Governor's Office.
3. DEQ employees should not attempt to perform inspections or field work if they meet any of the following criteria:
  - a. You have traveled to any country identified as having a Level III Travel Notice by the CDC (identified [here](#)) in the last 14 days.
  - b. You have been in direct contact with anyone who has traveled to, through, or from a country with a Level III Travel Notice in the last 14 days.
  - c. You have been in close contact with anyone who is being evaluated for or has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
  - d. You are experiencing or have experienced in the last 14 days any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath.
4. To the extent practicable, inspectors should give the facility advanced notice that the inspector intends to visit at a specific date and time. The inspector should present at the facility as they normally would and with proper credentials. When advance notice is not feasible (i.e., spills/environmental incidents) the inspector should present appropriate credentials and request access upon arrival.
5. The inspector should usually not submit to a medical examination at the facility. Exceptions, such as some military activities, are beyond the scope of this memo. The inspector should decline to fill out a

facility medical history questionnaire including questions related to COVID-19. The inspector should verbally report to the appropriate facility representative that they meet the criteria outlined in Item 3 above and have communicated this to their manager for that day.

6. If the inspector is denied access, the inspector should withdraw and report the circumstances to their manager. DEQ management should then consult with the Environment Section of the Attorney General's Office to determine whether the need for inspector access is great enough to seek a court order to gain access. DEQ will work with the Attorney General's Office to evaluate possible enforcement action for denial of access, if necessary.
7. DEQ employees shall practice social distancing as much as practicable while conducting inspections/field work. They must also adhere to the directive to limit gatherings to 10 or less people at any given time.
8. If feasible, employees should complete inspection work remotely using available technology tools. Employees should work with their managers to identify tasks that can be completed off-site to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19.